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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8447  
INFO RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHXS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 1016  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 2112  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 9299  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 2817  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 5131  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0541  
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY 4636  
RUEHBD/AMCONSUL PERTH PRIORITY 2928  
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY PRIORITY 2805

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STATE ALSO FOR EAP/ANP, EB, CA AND DRL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/23/2017  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [CVIS](#) [ETRD](#) [AS](#) [BM](#)  
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA SET TO IMPOSE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON 418  
BURMESE OFFICIALS

REF: A. STATE 146862

- [1](#)B. CANBERRA 1480
- [1](#)C. STATE 142626
- [1](#)D. CANBERRA 1457

Classified By: Political Counselor James F. Cole for reasons 1.4 (b),(d)  
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[1](#)1. (C) In a meeting with poloffs on October 23, Jeannie Henderson, Director of the Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Burma Section, DFAT, advised that Foreign Minister Downer had agreed to a recommendation to impose targeted financial sanctions against 418 individuals associated with Burma's military regime. The Reserve Bank of Australia planned to release publicly on October 24 the names of the individuals, who included members of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officials, regional military commanders, and spouses and children of the foregoing. Sanctions would take effect the same day.

[1](#)2. (C) Henderson said the sanctions would block financial transactions to and from individuals in Australia. Unlike U.S. law, however, Australian law did not allow for seizure of assets (Ref B), she added. Also, unlike the United States, Australia's sanctions were directed only at individuals and did not include corporate entities.

[1](#)3. (C) Henderson explained that the Australian approach to sanctions closely paralleled that of the EU, targeting "positions" within the Burmese government, as well as some financiers. As the GOA decision to impose sanctions had been taken before the government entered into caretaker status in advance of elections, the sanctions could proceed to be implemented, she added.

[1](#)4. (C) Regarding further measures, Henderson expected Burma to be on the agenda of both the forthcoming East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Canada wanted to use the Burma issue as an initial case for the ARF's new Friends of the Chair, but Australia opposed having such a sensitive issue taken up by an as-yet-untested mechanism.

